HEALTH
20 SEP 51
C.E. I

RAMSEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

UPON THE

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

DURING THE YEAR 1950.

Palmer & Son, Printers, Ramsey.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30028620

TO THE RAMSEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council.

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1950.

STAFF :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

H. PATTINSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Resigned 30th November, 1950.

F. D. F. STEEDE, M B., B.Ch., D.P,H.
Commenced 5th December, 1950.

SANITARY INSPECTOR (PART TIME)

V. J. BATEMAN, A.R.San.I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	15,980 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1950) ...	5,790
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1950	1,687
Rateable Value	£21,048
Value of Penny Rate	£87 : 14 : 0

The social conditions of the District remain substantially the same with agricultural pursuits providing a living for the great majority, and the level of general health remains good.

The type of Council house being built is very satisfactory and by present day standards, cheap. However, the numbers constructed are inadequate and the position is serious in view of the long waiting list and the numbers living under unsatisfactory conditions in old property incapable of being rendered fit.

The sufficiency of water supply is causing some concern in view of future requirements. A general water carriage scheme is very much needed and this too will mean a great increase in water consumption, though the largest obstacle to its provision at the present time is financial. However, the position already unsatisfactory, is bound to deteriorate yearly, and some means of overcoming financial difficulties must be found as the total cost would seem far too great for the District to bear unaided.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births.

Birth Rate per 1000 population 16.1

Still Births.

Rate per 1000 total births ... ... Nil

Deaths.

Death Rate per 1000 population 11.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes per 1000 total (live and still) births ... ... } Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births 21.5

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births 23.8

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 18

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ... Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... Nil

Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ... ... Nil

RATES.

	Per 1000 Population.				Per 1000 live births
	Live Births	Still Births	Crude Death Rate	Stnd'izd Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
Ramsey U. D. ...	16.1	Nil	11.6	11.3	21.5
England & Wales ...	15.8	0.37	11.6	11.6	29.8

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes, Registrar General's figures.

	Causes of Death.	M. 41	F. 26	Total 67
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	–	–	–
2.	Tuberculosis, other	–	–	–
3.	Syphilitic disease	–	–	–
4.	Diphtheria		–	–
5.	Whooping cough	–	–	
6.	Meningococcal infections	–	–	–
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	–	–	–
8.	Measles	–	–	–
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	–	–	–
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	2	2	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	2	–	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	–	2	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	–	1	1
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	5	4	9
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	–	–	–
16.	Diabetes	2	–	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	4	8	12
18.	Coronary disease, angina	2	1	3
19.	Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	–	1
20.	Other heart disease	8	2	10
21.	Other circulatory disease	2	2	4
22.	Influenza	–	–	–
23.	Pneumonia	4	1	5
24.	Bronchitis	2	1	3
25.	Other disease of respiratory system ...	1	–	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	–	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa ...	–	–	–
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	–	–	–
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	–	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	–	–	–
31.	Congenital malformations	2	–	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	–	1	1
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	–	–	–
34.	All other accidents	1	–	1
35.	Suicide	–	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of War ...	–	–	–

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) **Laboratory Facilities:**

No change has taken place in the general arrangements during the past year. Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, or by the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities:**

(1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Huntingdon.

(2) For non-infectious and accident cases, ambulances are provided by the Huntingdon County Council from their depot at Huntingdon. For non-emergency cases there is still an available ambulance stationed at Ramsey.

(c) **Nursing in the Home:**

Nursing in the home is carried out by three qualified nurses employed by the Huntingdon County Council. All nurses are certified midwives and attend the majority of maternity cases under the Domiciliary Midwifery Scheme.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and a report with details of home conditions and circumstances is completed.

(d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres:**

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Wesleyan Schoolroom on the 2nd and last Wednesday every month from 2—4 p.m.

The following additional Clinics are provided :-

School Clinic (Minor Ailment)	Ramsey Town C. P. School 3rd Thursday of the month 10—12 noon

Dental Clinic	The Wesleyan Schoolroom 2nd and last Wednesday of the month. 2—4 p.m.
Eyes	London Road Clinic, Old Fletton By Appointment
Tuberculosis	28, Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough Every Monday — 2—4 p.m. By Appointment.
Orthopædic	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough Every Monday, 2.15 p.m. By Appointment.
Nose, Throat and Ear Clinic	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough every Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appointment.
Venereal Diseases	28, Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough
Women Only	Fridays — 10—12 noon. New cases and special treatment only, Wednesdays — 5.30—7 p.m
Men Only	Thursdays — 5.30—7 p.m. New cases and special treatment only, Mondays — 4—6 p.m.

Under the Ante and Post Natal Scheme, provided by the County Council, expectant mothers are examined twice during their pregnancy (or oftener if necessary) and once after confinement.

(e) **Hospitals:**

(1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Disease at Huntingdon

(2) The Peterborough Memorial Hospital, the County Hospital, Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, continue to carry out the general hospital services in the district.

(3) Provision is made for Maternity cases at the Maternity Hospital, Paxton Park.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The routine visits of inspection in connection with this work have been carried out as in past years,

HOUSING.

During the year the Council completed 20 permanent houses. Four houses were completed by private enterprise. The standard of the new Council houses has been kept at a high level, but the number still required is considerable if all persons living in unfit houses are to be re-housed.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A comprehensive scheme would seem to be as far off as ever while the regulations with regard to financial assistance to small Urban authorities remain as at present.

WATER.

Samples from the water supply are taken regularly and forwarded to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge for bacteriological analysis. Apart from temporary difficulties with the mains to new houses samples have been satisfactory in all respects.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SIR,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1950.

Nuisances:

Abated as a result of informal action	16
Abated as a result of Statutory action	Nil

Analysis	No.	No. of Inspections
Premises	16	24
Overcrowding	Nil	Nil
Foul ditches etc.	1	4
Drains	Nil	Nil
Animals	2	2
Dampness	Nil	Nil
Disinfestation	6	6

Closets:

No. of houses at the end of the year with W.C.'s	721
" " " " " Pail Closets	940
" " " " " Privy Vaults	26
No. of W.C.'s constructed during the year for new houses	25
No. of Pail Closets newly constructed for old property	6

Cesspools:

No. of new cesspools provided	10
No. of cesspools emptied by L.S.A.	20
No. of cesspools emptied privately	1

Housing:

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:

1 (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects	16
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	24
2 (a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	6
(b) Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	Nil

Remedy of defects without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	4

Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2

Milk Supply:

No. of Retailers' Premises inspected	1

Disinfection:

Cases of Infectious Disease reported	6
No. of Inspections	9
Rooms disinfected	6
No. of Schools disinfected	Nil

Meat Inspection:

No. of slaughter houses on Register	6
No. of inspections	6
No. of visits for the inspection of meat	Nil

Water Supply:

Samples taken for analysis	26
Samples unsatisfactory	2
Wells closed	Nil
Wells cleansed and repaired	Nil
New Wells sunk	Nil

Ashbins: New provided	25
Offensive Trades: No. Registered	Nil

Shops and Offices:

No. of Shops inspected	4
No. requiring additional heating	Nil
No. requiring additional ventilation	Nil
No. requiring additional sanitary conveniences ...	Nil

Factory and Workshop Act, 1937.

Factories	Total number on register including bakehouses	37
	No. in which nuisances abated	3
Home work	No. of outworkers ...	Nil
Legal proceedings, *i.e.*, Summonses, etc.		Nil

V. J. BATEMAN, *Sanitary Inspector*

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1950.

DISEASE	TOTAL	under 1 year	1 – 2	2 – 3	3 – 4	4 – 5	5 – 10	10 – 15	15 – 20	20 – 35	35 – 45	45 – 65	65 & upwards	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	5	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	8	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	3	-	5
Measles	64	1	7	-	9	6	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	48	2	6	4	5	14	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year there was an increase both in the notifications of measles and whooping cough, this being a reflection of the general level of notifications in the Country generally.

Measles was on the whole mild, and there were no deaths from either cause.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following table sets out the number of children immunised in the district, together with the figure of the total child population :-

Under 5 Years.		Between 5—15 Years	
Number Immunised	Estimated Population	Number Immunised	Estimated Population
237	546	655	897

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL :—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the Compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

F. D. F. STEEDE,

Medical Officer of Health